

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 267181

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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R 172248Z NOV 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 267181

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 267181 ACTION TEL AVIV CAIRO  
DAMASCUS ALGIERS AMMAN GENEVA JIDDA KUWAIT DHAHREN  
JERUSALEM TRIPOLI RABAT LONDON PARIS MOSCOW ROME USUN NATO  
SANA TUNIS BAGHDAD DOHA ABU DHABI NOUAKCHOTT MOGADISIO  
KHARTOUM MANAMA TEHRAN CINCEUR 11 NOV

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 267181

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
NOVEMBER 11, 1975:

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND SPECULATION  
THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT RESORT TO SOME KIND OF  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 267181

FINANCIAL RETALIATION AGAINST THE UNITED NATIONS OR THOSE  
COUNTRIES THAT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION.  
DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THAT SUGGESTION OR SPECULA-  
TION?

A. FIRST, AS FAR AS OUR POSITION ON THE RESOLUTION, I  
REALLY DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT AMBASSADOR  
MOYNIHAN SAID YESTERDAY IN EXPLAINING U.S. OPPOSITION TO  
THE RESOLUTION.

AS FOR THE SPECIFIC QUESTION, OBVIOUSLY IT RAISES  
A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, AND WE WILL BE REVIEWING  
CAREFULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VOTE IN TERMS OF THE  
RESPONSE THAT WE THINK WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE AND  
EFFECTIVE.

ONE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IS THAT WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN  
ANY WAY IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO  
COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH WAS  
SPONSORED INITIALLY BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND IS TO BE  
HELD LATER IN ACCRA. I DO NOT HAVE THE DATE ON THAT.  
AND THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THAT  
OBSERVANCE HAS BECOME TOTALLY PERVERTED FROM ITS  
ORIGINAL INTENT BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ACTION  
YESTERDAY OF INCLUDING ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACISM.

Q. WHEN WAS THIS TO TAKE PLACE?

A. IT MAY BE EARLY NEXT YEAR. I DO NOT HAVE THE DATE.

Q. IS THAT A UN SPONSORED -- ?

A. IT WAS A UNGA RESOLUTION, I BELIEVE.

Q. WAS THERE A PRELIMINARY MEETING IN GENEVA ALREADY AT  
WHICH THE U.S. WAS REPRESENTED?

A. YES, I BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. IS THAT AN INDICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 267181

THINKING OF WITHDRAWING FROM OTHER UN FUNCTIONS?

A. I WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON ANY OTHER ACTION.

Q. WELL, IS THAT A POSSIBILITY?

Q. IS IT A POSSIBILITY? IS THAT ONE OF THE OPTIONS WE  
ARE CONSIDERING, TO WITHDRAW FROM OTHER UN FUNCTIONS?

A. I THINK I WILL JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT WE ARE  
STUDYING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE VOTE. AS FAR AS THE UN  
IS CONCERNED, JUST SO THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, AND  
AS CERTAINLY HAS BEEN IMPLIED, AND HAS ALSO BEEN

EXPLICITLY CLEAR FROM EVERYTHING WE HAVE SAID ON THIS VOTE, THAT WE REGRET THIS ACTION VERY MUCH.

FOR ONE THING, IT MAY RESULT IN A DECREASE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THIS INSTITUTION. AND THE UN, AFTER ALL, DOES SERVE AMERICAN POLICY INTERESTS IN MANY IMPORTANT WAYS, INCLUDING KEEPING THE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. ARE WE TO TAKE THAT TO MEAN THAT ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS STUDYING IS FINANCIAL RETALIATION AGAINST THE UN, OR THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FINANCIAL"?

Q. WELL, WE WOULD WITHDRAW THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ASSESSMENTS. I ASSUME THAT IS WHAT HE MEANS. AT LEAST I WOULD MEAN THAT. AND THAT PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE DIRECT RETALIATION AGAINST SOME OF THE COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION, BY WITHDRAWALS OF AID AND SOME SUCH.

A. AS FAR AS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, I THINK BASICALLY IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE GEARED TO OVER-ALL U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 267181

NOW, AS FAR AS ANY OTHER ACTIONS WE MIGHT TAKE IN THE UN ALONG THE LINES YOU HAVE SUGGESTED IN YOUR QUESTION, I THINK I WILL JUST HAVE TO STAND ON WHAT I SAID INITIALLY, THAT WE ARE REVIEWING CAREFULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VOTE.

Q. I WANT TO BE SURE I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. YOU ARE SUGGESTING THAT AS OF NOW, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS NO CONSIDERATION OF TAKING PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE UN FOR THEIR VOTES ON THIS ISSUE.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. I AM NOT QUITE SURE I UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT. IF THIS VOTE AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS VOTE HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY REVIEWED THAT YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT, THEN WHY AREN'T YOU IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THE LARGER QUESTION?

A. YOU MEAN, ON THE UN?

Q. YES. IN OTHER WORDS, OBVIOUSLY A POLICY DECISION HAD TO BE MADE WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO IN ANY MANNER CHANGE OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF THIS VOTE. THAT CALLED FOR SOME CONSIDERATION. WHY AREN'T YOU IN A POSITION TO ANSWER THE TOTAL QUESTION?

A. OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN ONLY ANSWER WHAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO ANSWER AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT. WE HAVE RECENTLY MADE A PROPOSAL TO THE CONGRESS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO ON BILATERAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND THOSE REQUESTS STAND. AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE TESTIFYING IN FAVOR OF THEIR ADOPTION BY THE CONGRESS.

AS FAR AS ANY FURTHER SPECIFIC ACTIONS OTHER THAN THIS ONE THAT I MENTIONED, I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THAT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 267181

Q. BOB, THE FACT IS, THOUGH, THAT IN CONGRESS AND IN THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, THERE IS A STRONG REACTION AGAINST THE UN AND AGAINST UN MEMBERS FOR THIS VOTE.

IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT GOING TO REMAIN NEUTRAL AND NOT EXERCISE ANY KIND OF GUIDANCE OR LEADERSHIP TO THESE CRITICS IN THE PUBLIC?

A. I THINK OUR POSITION ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE IS VERY CLEAR, BOTH FROM WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, AND WHAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAS SAID. WE HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS USEFULNESS AND OUR CONCERN ABOUT WHAT EFFECT THIS KIND OF ACTION HAS ON ITS SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES. WE SPOKE ABOUT THAT BEFORE THE VOTE, AND I SPOKE AGAIN ABOUT IT THIS MORNING, OR THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN REDUCING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE UN AS A RESULT OF THIS KIND OF ACTION? IT IS A THREAT THAT HAS OFTEN BEEN MADE-- NOT A THREAT, PERHAPS, BUT AN ADVISORY. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID THAT THIS SORT OF ACTION TENDS TO WEAKEN THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. DO YOU THINK THE PUBLIC IS JUSTIFIED IN WEAKENING THEIR SUPPORT?

A. CERTAINLY I DO NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. A LOT OF AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING LARGE GROUPS OF OUR POPULATION CERTAINLY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THAT, AND THEY CORRESPOND WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS AND WILL

CONTINUE TO SERVE, WE HOPE, AMERICAN POLICY INTERESTS  
IN MANY IMPORTANT WAYS. WE SHOULDN'T LOSE SIGHT OF THAT,  
EITHER.

Q. WELL, I WOULD ASSUME, WHEN YOU REFER TO THE OUTRAGE  
THAT IS EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, AND WHEN YOU  
REFERRED TO THE OPINIONS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THAT  
THOSE ARE BASED IN SOME PART, AT LEAST, ON MORAL  
OUTRAGE, NOT PURELY ON PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS. THERE-  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 267181

FORE, WHAT I AM REALLY ASKING IS, WHETHER THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO MAKE ANY PART OF ITS RESPONSE  
CONTINGENT ON ITS MORAL OUTRAGE OR WHETHER IT WILL BE  
PURELY DONE ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS?

A. OUR POLICY HAS NEVER BEEN, AS FAR AS I KNOW,  
NEITHER EXCLUSIVELY BASED ON MORAL NOR PRAGMATIC  
CONSIDERATIONS. IT HAS TO BE BALANCED ON A POLICY THAT  
IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR NATIONAL TRADITIONS--OUR VIEW OF  
INTERNATIONAL MORALITY--AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL INTERESTS  
OF OUR COUNTRY.

Q. WHAT CONFUSES ME ABOUT THIS IS THAT IN HIS  
MILWAUKEE SPEECH, THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE SOME DIRE  
BUT UNSPECIFIC PREDICTIONS OF WHAT THE UNITED STATES  
WOULD DO IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY IN  
JUST THE WAY, APPARENTLY, THAT THEY ACTED YESTERDAY.  
IT DID NOT COME AS ANY SURPRISE THAT THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY DID VOTE, AND VOTE THE WAY THEY DID. AND NOW  
YOU ARE TRYING TO TELL US, APPARENTLY, THAT WE HAVEN'T  
DECIDED WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO, AND IT APPARENTLY  
HAS CAUGHT US UNAWARE.

A. NO, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT IT CAUGHT US UNAWARE.  
TWO POINTS. OBVIOUSLY WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID IN  
MILWAUKEE STILL STANDS, AND IT REFLECTS OUR POSITION ON  
THIS ISSUE.

NOW, ON THE QUESTION OF OUR REACTION TO THE UN ACTION  
ON THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE--WHICH AFTER ALL THE VOTE WAS JUST  
YESTERDAY--WE HAVE MADE A STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY ON  
IT. I HAVE BEEN ASKED A COUPLE OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS  
WHICH I HAVE TRIED TO ANSWER. BUT I AM NOT TRYING TO  
ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS TODAY. WE ARE REVIEWING  
THE IMPLICATIONS.

Q. BOB, DID PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY OF STATE  
KISSINGER URGE PRESIDENT SADAT WHEN HE WAS HERE TO DROP  
OR ABANDON HIS SUPPORT FOR THIS UN RESOLUTION?

A. I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION SPECIFICALLY. I DO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 267181

NOT KNOW. I DO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT SADWT IS VERY MUCH AWARE--WAS AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND HOW STRONGLY WE FELT ABOUT IT.

Q. BOB, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT SOME NATIONS

DEMANDED OR SOUGHT MONEY FOR THEIR VOTES IN THIS ISSUE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT LIBYA WAS OFFERING MONEY TO NON-ALIGNED STATES TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION. DID ANY COUNTRY ASK US TO INCREASE AID OR TO MAKE OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE.

Q. I FEEL THIS MIGHT BE EXHAUSTED, BUT WE ARE EMBARKED NOW ON AN AID PROGRAM TO ARAB NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS AID WILL INDIRECTLY AND PERHAPS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO FEELINGS OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN THE AREA AND STABILITY. HOW DOES THIS RESOLUTION AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR IT AFFECT OUR JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS AID?

A. I WAS TRYING TO ANSWER THAT INITIALLY BY POINTING OUT THAT BASICALLY OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE GEARED TO THE OVERALL U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. AND I THINK THIS WAS OUTLINED CERTAINLY IN THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, I BELIEVE, LAST WEEK WHEN HE TESTIFIED ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. THOSE FACTS THAT HE STATED AT THAT TIME STILL HOLD TODAY.

Q. I AM CURIOUS AS TO HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN EXPRESS ANY KIND OF OUTRAGE AT OTHER NATIONS DOING PRECISELY THE SAME THING, VOTING AT THE UN IN WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST.

A. OBVIOUSLY THAT IS THE ARGUMENT. BUT AN ARGUMENT ALSO HAS TO BE JUDGED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARGUMENT. AND I THINK THAT WAS THE POINT THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN CERTAINLY ADDRESSED YESTERDAY.

Q. COULD YOU ANSWER THE SECOND PART OF THE EARLIER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 267181

QUESTION, WHICH WAS: ARE WE CONTEMPLATING ANY OTHER ACTION, RETALIATORY ACTION, APART FROM AID?

A. I REALLY HAVE TO REMAIN WITH THE GENERAL QUESTION, THE GENERAL RESPONSE I MADE AT THE OUTSET. I REALLY

CANNOT GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHEN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO  
DAMASCUS IS GOING TO RETURN TO HIS POSITION? HE IS NOW  
IN THE UNITED STATES, RIGHT?

A. YES. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER A FINAL DEPARTURE DATE  
HAS BEEN DETERMINED. I WILL CHECK INTO THAT. I THINK  
IT IS PROBABLY OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT I AM NOT SURE. INGERSOLL  
UNQTE. KISSINGER

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